

Meeting of the Sub Acute Committee  
January 11, 2006

Present: Michael Sabourin, Wendy Beinners, Beth Tanzman, Michael Hartman, Anne Jerman, Tom Simpatico, Paul Landerl, Cathy Rousse, Adena Weidman, Ryan Pierson, Jim Christie, Kate Plummer, Kate Barrass, Bonnie Haskins, Peter Bartlett, Scott Perry, Jo Ellen Swaine

(Note there were other VSH staff in attendance but names were not all recorded)

DMH Update – Beth updated the group on the then probable demise of the effort to have a sub-acute in place within the town of Vergennes. Building and Grounds (BGS) has activated a contract with a firm in Troy, N.Y. to begin the design process for the new inpatient unit. A workgroup for this project is being formulated and there is a strong need for consumer/family input on this project. As well the actuarial services bid has been put out and at least 2 strong proposals came back. The work on this proposal is to be completed by 3/31/06.

WCMHS/CMC/HCHS – With the Vergennes project ending, WCMHS, CMC, and HCHS have begun efforts to establish a sub acute site somewhere on the I-89 corridor. All three agencies currently run a project, Central VT Substance Abuse Services, as a collaborative and believe they could quickly establish a site. The Executive Directors are meeting later today to formally commit to this effort. There is one site identified by a private developer in Central Vermont that is possible.

NKHS – The agency is within a short time line to offer an agreement on purchase of this site. Ongoing meetings have occurred with VSH staff and patients with over 12 patients there having been interviewed. There have been strong efforts to work with the agency standing committee to develop a recovery oriented philosophy for the program. At this time all is on track.

Legal and Philosophical Issues of Care in Sub Acute – This was the discussion for most of the remainder of the meeting. The points of discussion ranged from why the number of beds for care are being reduced—it was clarified that in actuality this number was going up not down within the whole of the system of care—to the philosophical commitment to a reduction of coercion in the system. The primary issues were ; motivation for the consumers to attend the programs and participate in activities, the ability of the programs to address situations where deterioration seemed to be present, but consumer/staff collaboration on problem solving was low, and how and what legal tools would be used. The meeting on 2/1/06 is designated as one to more thoroughly discuss the legal issues. Lee Suskin the Court Administrator, will be in attendance to discuss the question of ONH violation time lines, and Wendy Beinners and Jack McCullough will be in attendance for both that discussion and to further explore whether Act 114 has a clear role in sub acute care.

Next Meeting is February 1, 9-11, at Dr. Simpatico's office in the Complex. Conference call number and password are: # **1-877-278-8686** pin **460 795**